

VZCZCXRO1320
PP RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHRL #0229 0551823
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241823Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3393
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUCNFRG/FRG COLLECTIVE
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0257
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 0725
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 000229

SIPDIS
EUR/RPM FOR CHRIS DAVY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/23/2019
TAGS: [GM](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [EUN](#)
SUBJECT: GERMANS UNLIKELY TO INCREASE THEIR SUPPORT TO
NTM-I AT THIS TIME

REF: STATE 16188

Classified By: POLITICAL MINISTER COUNSELOR JEFF RATHKE. REASONS: 1.4 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) PolOff delivered ref points to Gunnar Denecke, deputy in the MFA's Defense and Security Policy Division, and (separately) Klemens Semtner, head of the Iraq Unit, on February 24. While both expressed support for NTM-I's mission, Denecke reiterated Germany's oft-heard "no boots on the ground" mantra, which he fully expects to remain in place through Germany's federal elections in September 2009. Semtner further noted that, despite FM Steinmeier's "timely" visit to Baghdad February 17 and 18 (see additional reporting septel), support for NTM-I was not raised by the Iraqis or the Germans.

12. (C) Denecke noted past and "continuing" German support for the NTM-I trust fund, training offered in the U.A.E., and material supplied, and said Germany would be "willing to do more" along those lines. At the same time he acknowledged that the trust fund is already fully funded, the materials have been supplied, and no additional training is currently planned. When pressed to consider providing a "symbolic" contribution to NTM-I in Iraq, Denecke argued that the German Parliament (Bundestag) would need to be consulted, and a "mandate" would need to be passed -- "even if just for trainers." NOTE: Actually, the German deployment law only requires a parliamentary mandate for "armed" troop deployments, but clearly the government is eager to avoid any suggestions of sending German troops to Iraq. That said, retired German General and former NATO Military Committee Chairman Harald Kujat has indicated to the embassy that he is willing to go to Iraq to give lectures and do mentoring through NTM-I. END NOTE.

13. (C) Denecke also noted that the government of Iraq has yet to provide clarifications on the legal status of NATO troops, leading to an impression among the Allies that Iraq may not be "enthusiastic" about a substantial NATO presence following July 31, 2009. Despite pushing back with key arguments, Denecke expressed the view that Washington might be "optimistic" in its assessment of the matter, noting that "Iraq simply does not appear to be that supportive."
Koenig